

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

What is claimed is:

1. (amended). A method for operation of a distributed computer system (SYS) comprising network nodes (NKN, NK1-NK6), each of which has at least one node controller (STR, ST1-ST6) and one communication controller (KK1-KK6), the communication controllers (KKK, KK1-KK6) being connected to each other via at least one communication channel (BUS), and provision being made between the communication controller (KK1-KK6) and the node controller (STR, ST1-ST6) of a network node (NKN, NK1-NK6) for a fault tolerance layer (FTS, FT1-FT6) that is set up to receive messages exchanged between the network nodes (NKN, NK1-NK6), and wherein the fault tolerance layer (FTS, FT1-FT6) deciding decides, based on information received pertaining to the status of at least one network node (NKN, NK1-NK6), about the functioning of the at least one network node (NK1-NK6) via a coordination procedure, and wherein the coordination result is made available as an output signal (ASS, AS1-AS6) at one or more hardware outputs of the communication controller (KKK, KK1-KK6), and, the at least one network node (NKN, NK1-NK6) being triggered as a function of the output signal (ASS, AS1-AS6).
2. (canceled).
3. (amended). The method as described in Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the result of the coordination is made available as a digital output signal on at least one pin of the communication controller (KKK, KK1-KK6).
4. (amended). The method as described in Claim ~~Claims 1 to 3~~, wherein membership information of the communication controller (KKK, KK1-KK6) in question is included in the coordination procedure.
5. (amended). The method as described in Claim ~~any of Claims 1 to 3~~, wherein the fault

tolerance layer (FTS, FT1-FT6) uses its own data structure, which is independent of the data structures of the communication controller (KKK, KK1-KK6) and the node controller (STR, ST1-ST2), for the selection of a coordination algorithm and the evaluation messages (NA1-NA6) enlisted for the coordination.

6. (amended). The method as described in Claim ~~any of Claims 1 to 4~~, wherein, wherein the coordination result is made available within network nodes in a memory storage area.

7. (amended). The method as described in Claim ~~any of Claims 1 to 5~~, wherein at least one node controller (STR, ST1-ST6) is restarted as a function of the output signal (ASS, AS1-AS6).

8. (amended). The method as described in Claim ~~any of Claims 1 to 6~~, wherein an emergency shutoff of a node controller (ST1-ST6) is executed as a function of the output signal (ASS, AS1-AS6).

9. (amended). The method as described in Claim ~~any of Claims 1 to 7~~, wherein at least one network node (NKN, NK1-NK6) has an actuator (AKT, AK1-AK4) connected to the node controller (STR, ST1-ST6), and the actuator (AKT, AK1-AK4) is brought into a preferred or secure state by the output signal (ASS, AS1-AS6).

10. (amended). The method as described in Claim ~~any of Claims 1 to 8~~, wherein the communication between the network nodes (NKN, NK1-NK6) occurs on a time-triggered basis according to the TTP/C protocol.